

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 15, 23 and 33 are amended; claims 16-22 and 24-32 are cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-15, 23 and 34-38 are pending.

This amendment advances prosecution by canceling claims, correcting typographic errors, complying with requirements of form and placing claims in better form for appeal should an appeal be necessary. These responsive amendments are not believed to raise new issues before the Examiner. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. In view of the amendment and associated Remarks reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are deemed proper.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph

The Office Action listed claims 16, 23 and 24 as being rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. The text portion explaining the rejection however discussed claims 16, 24, 31 and 32. Applicants' representative in telephone call to attempt to clarify this with Examiner Leffers was informed that Examiner Leffers was no longer assigned to the case. Applicants accordingly reply by canceling *inter alia* claims 16, 24, 31 and 32 (the claims whose rejections were specifically discussed in the Office Action). Later in the Office Action the Examiner suggested a remedial amendment to claims 15 and 23. Claims 15 and 23 are amended accordingly. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

The Office Action listed claims 1-3 and 5 through 38 as rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph for alleged indefiniteness. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 15, 23 and 33 are amended to correct typographic errors, to improve form and to overcome this rejection. The Examiner suggested that amending the claims to explicitly apply size restrictions to both the sequence and complement would overcome the rejection. Such amendments are herewith made. Claim 2 is amended as an independent claim. Clearly the length of SEQ ID No. 2 of 357 bases cannot properly depend from claim 1 as it was previously amended to feature at least 500 bases. Similarly, the recitations of 20 bases in claim 3 and 35 bases in claim 5 render improper their dependence from claim 1. Claim 6 is amended to be multiply dependent to depend from amended claims 3 and 5 as well as claim 1. Claims 15 and 23 are amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 33 is simply amended to depend from claim 15 as well as claim 1. Taken in conjunction with the cancelled claims, the multiply dependent claims as amended do not result in an increased number of claims pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request prompt notice thereof.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-1982

Respectfully submitted,

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